

CHAPTER 11
BROKERAGE AGREEMENTS AND LISTINGS

[Prior to 9/4/02, see 193E—Ch 1]

193E—11.1(543B) Listing brokerage agreements. All listing agreements shall be in writing, properly identifying the property and containing all of the terms and conditions under which the property is to be sold, including the price, the commission to be paid, the signatures of all parties concerned and a definite expiration date. The agreement shall contain no provision requiring a party signing the listing to notify the broker of the listing party's intention to cancel the listing after such definite expiration date. An exclusive agency or exclusive right to sell listing shall clearly indicate that it is such an agreement. A legible copy of every written listing agreement or other written authorization shall be given to the owner of the property by a licensee as soon as reasonably practical after the signature of the owner is obtained.

11.1(1) A licensee shall not solicit or enter into a listing or brokerage agreement with an owner if the licensee knows or has reason to know that the owner has a written unexpired exclusive agency or exclusive right to sell listing agreement to the property with another broker, unless the owner initiates the discussion and the licensee has not directly or indirectly solicited the listing or brokerage agreement.

a. However, if the owner initiates the discussion, the licensee may negotiate and enter into a listing or brokerage agreement that will take effect after the expiration of the current listing.

b. If the owner initiates the discussion, the licensee may inform the owner that the owner must allow the current listing to expire or obtain a mutually acceptable cancellation from the listing broker before any further discussion can take place.

11.1(2) A real estate licensee shall not negotiate a sale, exchange, or lease of real property directly with an owner if it is known that the owner has a written unexpired contract in connection with the property which grants an exclusive right to sell to another broker, or which grants an exclusive agency to another broker.

11.1(3) A listing agreement shall not be assigned, sold, or otherwise transferred to another broker without the express written consent of all parties to the original agreement.

11.1(4) Net listing prohibited. No licensee shall make or enter into a net listing agreement for the sale of real property or any interest in real property. A net listing agreement is an agreement that specifies a net sale price to be received by the owner with the excess over that price to be received by the broker as commission. The taking of a net listing shall be unprofessional conduct and shall constitute a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3) and 543B.34(8).

11.1(5) A real estate licensee shall not induce another to seek to alter, modify, or change another licensee's fee or commission for real estate brokerage services without that licensee's prior written consent.

11.1(6) Any commission or fee in any listing agreement is fully negotiable among the parties to that listing agreement. Once the parties to a listing agreement have agreed to a commission or fee, no licensee other than a party to the listing agreement shall attempt to alter, modify, or change or induce another person to alter, modify or change a commission or fee that has previously been agreed upon without the prior written consent of the parties to that listing agreement.

193E—11.2(543B) Enforcing a protective clause. To enforce a protective clause beyond the expiration of an exclusive listing contract, there must be a provision for the protective clause in the listing contract which establishes a definite protection period, and the broker must furnish to the owner prior to the expiration of the listing the names and addresses of persons to whom the property was presented during the active term of the listing and for whom protection is sought.

193E—11.3(543B) Brokerage agreements. All brokerage agreements shall be written and cannot be assigned, sold, or otherwise transferred to another broker without the express written consent of all parties to the original agreement, unless the terms of the agreement state otherwise. Upon termination of association or employment with the principal broker, the affiliated broker associate or salesperson shall not take or use any written brokerage agreements secured during the association or employment. Said brokerage agreements remain the property of the principal broker and may be canceled only by the broker and the client.

11.3(1) Every written brokerage agreement shall include, at a minimum, the requirements set forth in Iowa Code section 543B.57 and the following provisions:

a. All listing contracts and all brokerage agency contracts shall contain a statement disclosing the brokerage policy on cooperating with and compensating other brokerages whether the brokerage is acting as subagent or the other parties' agent in the sale, lease, rental, or purchase of real estate, including whether the brokerage intends to share the compensation with other brokerages. Such disclosure shall serve to inform the client of any policy that would limit the participation of any other brokerage; and

b. All listing contracts and all brokerage agency contracts shall comply with Iowa real estate law and commission rules including, but not limited to, rules 193E—11.1(543B) and 11.4(543B) and 193E—Chapter 15.

11.3(2) No licensee shall make or enter into a brokerage agreement that specifies a net sale, lease, rental, or exchange price to be received by an owner and the excess to be received by the licensee as a commission.

11.3(3) The taking of a net brokerage agreement shall be unprofessional conduct and a practice that is harmful or detrimental to the public and shall constitute a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3) and 543B.34(8).

11.3(4) Duration of relationship. The relationships shall commence at the time of the brokerage agreement and shall continue until closing of the transaction or performance or completion of the agreement by which the broker was engaged within the term of the agreement. If the transaction does not close, or the agreement for which the broker was engaged is not performed or completed for any reason, the relationship shall end at the earlier of the following:

a. Any date of expiration agreed upon by the parties; or

b. Any termination by written agreement of the parties.

11.3(5) Obligation terminated. In addition to any continuing duty or obligation provided in the written agreement or pursuant to Iowa law and commission rules, a broker or brokerage engaged as a seller's or landlord's agent, buyer's or tenant's agent, subagent, or dual agent and affiliated licensees shall have the duty after termination, expiration, completion, or performance of the brokerage agreement to:

a. Account for all moneys and property related to and received during the engagement; and

b. Keep confidential all information received during the course of the engagement which was made confidential by request or instructions from the engaging party or is otherwise confidential by statute or rule.

11.3(6) Compensation. In any real estate transaction, the broker's compensation may be paid by the seller, the buyer, the landlord, the tenant, a third party, or by the sharing or splitting of a commission or compensation between brokers.

a. Payment of compensation shall not be construed to determine or establish an agency relationship. The payment of compensation to a broker does not determine whether a brokerage relationship has been created between any broker and a seller, landlord, buyer, or tenant paying such compensation.

b. Written permission of the client is required as follows:

(1) A seller's or landlord's agent may share the commission or other compensation paid by such seller or landlord with another broker, with the written consent of the seller or landlord.

(2) A buyer's or tenant's agent may share the commission or other compensation paid by such buyer or tenant with another broker, with the written consent of the buyer or tenant.

(3) Without the written approval of the client, a seller's or landlord's agent shall not propose to the buyer's or tenant's agent that such seller's or landlord's agent may be compensated by sharing compensation paid by such buyer or tenant.

(4) Without the written approval of the client, a buyer's or tenant's agent shall not propose to the seller's or landlord's agent that such buyer's or tenant's agent may be compensated by sharing compensation paid by such seller or landlord.

c. A broker may be compensated by more than one party for services in a transaction if the parties have consented in writing to such multiple payments prior to entering into a contract to buy, sell, lease, or exchange.

d. A licensee shall not accept, receive or charge an undisclosed commission for a transaction.

e. A licensee shall not give or pay an undisclosed commission to any other licensee for a transaction, except payment for referrals to other licensees, including franchise affiliates, to provide real estate brokerage services, if there is no direct or beneficial ownership interest of more than 1 percent in the business entity providing the service.

f. A licensee shall not pay any undisclosed rebate to any party to a transaction.

g. A licensee shall not give any undisclosed credit against commission due from a client or licensee to any party to a transaction.

h. A licensee shall not accept, receive or charge any undisclosed payments for any services provided by any third party to any party to a transaction including, but not limited to, payments for procuring insurance or for conducting a property inspection related to the transaction.

i. The provisions of these rules do not apply to a gratuitous gift, such as flowers or a door knocker, to a buyer or tenant subsequent to closing and not promised or offered as an inducement to buy or lease, as long as any client relationship has terminated.

j. The provisions of these rules do not apply to a free gift, such as prizes, money, or other valuable consideration, to a potential party to a transaction or lease prior to the parties' signing a contract to purchase or lease and not promised or offered as an inducement to sell, buy, or lease, as long as no client relationship has been established with the buyer or lessee.

11.3(7) Solicitation of brokerage agreements. A licensee shall not advise, counsel, or solicit a brokerage agreement from a seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, if the licensee knows, or acting in a reasonable manner should have known, that the seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, has contracted with another broker for the same brokerage services on an exclusive basis.

a. This rule does not preclude a broker from entering into a brokerage agreement with a seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, when the initial contact is initiated by the seller or buyer, or landlord or tenant, and the licensee has not directly or indirectly solicited the discussion, provided the brokerage agreement does not become effective until the expiration or release of the current brokerage agreement.

b. A brokerage agreement may not be assigned, sold, or otherwise transferred to another broker without the express written consent of all parties to the original agreement.

11.3(8) Any commission or fee in any brokerage agreement is fully negotiable among the parties to that brokerage agreement. Once the parties to a brokerage agreement have agreed to a commission or fee, no licensee other than a party to that brokerage agreement shall attempt to alter, modify, or change or induce another person to alter, modify, or change a commission or fee that has previously been agreed upon without the prior written consent of the parties to that brokerage agreement.

11.3(9) A real estate licensee shall not induce another to seek to alter, modify, or change another licensee's fee or commission for real estate brokerage services without that licensee's prior written consent.

11.3(10) A commission split agreement between brokers should be a separate document and not included in the purchase agreement. A purchase agreement should not be made contingent upon the selling broker's receiving a certain percentage of the listing broker's commission.

193E—11.4(543B) Terms or conditions. A licensee shall not write, prepare or otherwise use a contract containing terms or conditions that would violate real estate laws in Iowa Code chapter 543B or commission rules.

The broker shall be responsible to ensure that all preprinted documents and forms used are in compliance with these rules.

193E—11.5(543B) Distribution of executed instruments. Upon execution of any instrument in connection with a real estate transaction, a licensee shall, as soon as practicable, deliver a legible copy of the original instrument to each of the parties thereto. It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to prepare sufficient copies of such instruments to satisfy this requirement. The broker shall retain copies for five years.

193E—11.6(543B) Rebates and inducements.

11.6(1) A licensee shall not pay a commission, any part of a commission, or valuable consideration to an unlicensed third party for performing brokerage functions or engaging in any activity that requires a real estate license. Referral fees or finder's fees paid to unlicensed third parties for performing brokerage activities, or engaging in any activity that requires a real estate license, are prohibited.

11.6(2) In a listing contract, the broker is principal party to the contract. The broker may, with proper disclosure, pay a portion of the commission earned to an unlicensed seller or landlord that is a principal party to the listing contract. This will be deemed a reduction in the amount of the earned commission.

11.6(3) A licensee may present a gratuitous gift, such as flowers or a door knocker, to the buyer or tenant subsequent to closing and not promised or offered as an inducement to buy or lease. The permission and disclosure requirements of rule 193E—11.3(543B) do not apply as long as any client relationship has terminated.

11.6(4) A licensee may present free gifts, such as prizes, money, or other valuable consideration, to a potential party to a transaction or lease, prior to that party's signing a contract to purchase or lease and not promised or offered as an inducement to buy or lease. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that the promotion is in compliance with other Iowa laws, such as gaming regulations. The permission and disclosure requirements of rule 193E—11.3(543B) do not apply as long as no client relationship has been established with the buyer or lessee.

11.6(5) The offering by a licensee of a free gift, prize, money, or other valuable consideration as an inducement shall be free from deception and shall not serve to distort the true value of the real estate service being promoted.

11.6(6) A licensee may make donations to a charity, or other not-for-profit organization, for each listing or closing, or both, that the licensee has during a specific time period. The receiving entity may be selected by the licensee or by a party to the transaction. The contribution may be in the name of the licensee or in the name of a party to the transaction. Contributions are permissible only if the following conditions are met:

- a.* There are no restrictions placed on the payment;
- b.* The donation is for a specific amount;
- c.* The receiving entity does not act or participate in any manner that would require a license;
- d.* The licensee exercises reasonable care to ensure that the organization or fund is a bona fide nonprofit;
- e.* The licensee exercises reasonable care to ensure that the promotional materials clearly explain the terms under which the donation will be made; and
- f.* All required disclosures are made.

193E—11.7(543B) New construction. A contract with a builder to construct or attach personal property or other type of structure to land and thereby produce an improvement to real estate is a real estate transaction. A licensee shall make written disclosure revealing that the licensee and the licensee's broker or brokerage firm will receive a commission, compensation, or valuable consideration for its efforts in the transaction, as required by 11.3(6) "*d.*" Written disclosure is required regardless of the type of representation provided by the licensee or if the licensee provides no representation.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 543B.

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